GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3607
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2002
REGIONAL IMBALANCE
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the Tenth Five Year Plan, issues of regional imbalances have been taken care of the respective States;

(b) whether the Governments of West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh placedspecific proposal to combat the regional imbalances of North Bengal region of West Bengal, North Bihar region of Bihar and Eastern region of Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details therein?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) : The issues of regional imbalances amongst the States are to be addressed in the Tenth Five Year Plan through the Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula for allocation of Planfunds to the States and through Central Assistance for earmarked sectors / schemes. According to the Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula, due weightage is given to factors suchas income of the State as compared to the National average and to special problems of the States, amongst others, while allocating Central Assistance. A main criterion for allocation of funds for earmarked sectors / schemes is the gap in the development of social and physical infrastructure in different States. This gap filling approach is expected to reduce disparities among the States.

(b) & (c): The Government of West Bengal have constituted an area developmentfund for North Bengal with a corpus of Rs. 33.00 crore. Further, for planning and monitoring the implementation of development schemes of North Bengal, the Uttar Banga Unnayan Parshad has been constituted in 2000-01 under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister of the State. The Government of Uttar Pradesh have set up the Poorvanchal Vikas Nidhi for the Eastern Region ofthe State in 1990-91 and as a part of the Tenth Plan and Annual Plan 2002-03 proposals, the State Government wouldbe taking up the schemes related to infrastructure development in the region. The Government of Bihar have not proposed any specific special area programme for North Bihar.